Campus Times

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Gamst shares research on memory

Marina Bravo
Arts Editor



Ronald Banks

Glenn Gamst, professor of psychology, discusses the meaning and research behind his latest book, "Conversation Memory," at the La Verne Academy lecture Tuesday in the Quay Davis Executive Board Room. Gamst's research examines how people remember conversations and memories throughout their lifetimes. In his 12 chapter book he discusses various theories about memory.

Glenn Gamst, professor of psychology, presented his "Conversation Memory," at noon on Tuesday in the Quay Davis Executive Board Room.

And he discussed his book, "Conversation Memory: Comprehension, Representation and Social Context." Gamst was introduced by Leticia Arellano, professor of psychology, to an audience of around 40 people in person with additional listeners on Zoom.

"This book is not about improving conversation memory," Gamst said. "I am not here to help you with that today. What this book is, it is reviewing a huge corpus of research, which is what I will be talking with you about today."

There are 12 chapters to the book, which is an overview of Gamst's research. Gamst went over and highlighted each chapter in his lecture. In chapter one, he goes over theories to approach the conservation of memory.

"There are six theoretical approaches that people utilize when they're looking at conservation memory," Gamst said. "We view memory as a series of multi-components, sensory storage, short-term and long-term memories."

Chapter two tackles representation of conversations of long term memory. Gamst reviewed 14 models of conversation and conversation memory. He says to identify what kind of discourse plans you have in a certain setting.

Gamst also introduces the difference in gender in conversation memory.

"Women are able to have a melodic conversation," Gamst said. "Like a magical jam session with things competing against one another. When men get together we tend to stare at each other. You would need a special set of skills to get them to talk."

What Gamst found through his research was that women have better episodic memory in conversations. He went on to explore his other chapters and different ideas and theories he had researched for his book.

He provided his audience with detailed examples and scenarios for each topic.

"It isn't really my area at all, but I find it interesting how there is an overlap with the social science of emotions in conversations," Assistant Professor of Sociology and Criminology Alessandro Morosin said. "The proximate and distal bias, positive or negative emotions and the role of emotions and identity, rationality and memory."

Gamst reminded everyone that their mind was not robotic, that it is natural for it not to remember everything.

"You are not a tape recorder," Gamst said. "When you go back to recall a conversation it is a constant deconstruction and reconstruction. It is not a verbatim conversation. Keep this in mind when looking at memory."

At the end of his discussion, Gamst tackled themes of artificial intelligence. Like the rest of his colleagues in the room, Gamst is apprehensive about the rise of AI use in academia.

"I have strong concerns about AI," Gamst said. "But I also understand that I am one of the guys who is rooting for producing data. I know it is contradicting, but I am interested in seeing the advancement of artificial intelligence."

Another element he touched upon was responses to trauma and how the brain works with that. "Trauma is an interesting issue," Gamst said. "There are individuals that remember things occurring at just three months, when who really remembers things at three months? The brain is very plasticy but in the instance for trauma that is very different and there is still a lot of work that needs to be done on understanding that."

Arellano shared how she admired Gamst and how his work has shined through his time here at the University.

"He has been very prolific," Arellano said. "He is one of my colleagues who is always writing and publishing, and doing stuff. He pushes and is really committed to advancing the area of multicultural psychology, statistics and other areas."

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Talk considers the U.S. and Iran war

The International Studies Institute hosted "Iran War: How Did We Get Here?" on April 30.

The talk, part of the Hot Spots series, featured two speakers, Miaad Hassan, visiting professor of political science, and Gitty Amini, associate professor of political science. It was moderated by Kenneth Marcus, professor of history.

Before an audience of about 30 community members in the Quay Davis Executive Boardroom, the speakers focused on the current situation in Iran. And they considered the historical and political factors leading up to it. In February the U.S. and Israel initiated a war of aggression, targeting sites across Iran.

In March President Donald Trump threatened to target Iran's oil infrastructure and desalination plants. The Persian Gulf, a critical artery for global energy supplies, became a target, affecting oil prices and international markets.

The speakers explained that relational conflicts between the U.S. and Iran are defined by deep mistrust and decades of hostility specifically marked by the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

"What are the next steps for Iran?" asked Ahmed Ispahani, professor of business administration.

"Neither party has prepared for the consequences of this (current) war," Hassan said.

"It's Pandora's box of complicated global supply lines," Amini said.

—Asha Longsworth

On the Cover

La Verne senior catcher Nathan Perry celebrates at third base after hitting a triple at Ben Hines Field on Saturday against Redlands. Perry had two hits and two RBIs to aid the Leopards in their win. / photo by Aaliyah Alamillo

La Verne unites at Scholarship Gala

Margaret Contreras
LV Life Editor

The annual University of La Verne Scholarship Gala was held Saturday night in the Sheraton Suite and Conference Center at the Fairplex in Pomona. The night brought guests, alumni, students and faculty; with the message to help future generations have access to higher education at the University.

The gala started at 6 p.m. with a reception and ended around 9:30 p.m. with dancing after dinner. There was a silent auction with tables filled with items including NFL Rams' season tickets, concert tickets to Ariana Grande and a basket filled with ULV merchandise.

This year the Gala celebrated the University's Women's Volleyball team, which made it to the NCAA finals and finished as the No. 2 team in the nation among Division III schools.

At the entrance to the building was the ULV dance team and a balloon arch, welcoming guests as they entered the gala. There was a photo opportunity with the University's celebrities, Leo and Lea.

"This event is about opportunity for students," junior biology major and ULV dance member Lucia Baltazar-Sanchez said.

"I was talking to someone that came tonight, saying that they are here to help students have an opportunity to have an education."

In the lobby outside of the silent auction room, there was a table with an opportunity to be entered into a drawing to win a chance to name a Leo Legacy Scholarship after yourself or in honor of someone.

The amount to enter the drawing was $150, the winner was Linda McLaughlin from the class of 1971.

"The Leo Legacy Scholarship awards a student from the University $10,000," Christine Camacho, director of annual giving, said.

"We have had a lot of people come and donate, some have never donated or they stopped and this gave them an opportunity to start again."

At 6:40 p.m., guests were ushered into the main ballroom to find their seats for dinner and the speeches. Dinner then started at 7 p.m. with opening remarks from University President Risa Dickson.

"Education transforms lives," Dickson said. "When we invest in our students, we invest in something much larger than any one individual. We invest in families, in communities and in our shared future."

The Volleyball team was then recognized by Dickson and brought up onto the stage. The room erupted in applause for the accomplishments of the team and their journey to the championship.

A recap of the season was shown, members of the team were interviewed with the leading question of what it means to be at the University.

"Your generosity creates the opportunity, and your belief in our students helps them achieve more than they ever imagined," Dickson said.

"Thank you for believing in our students, for investing in their futures, and for being an important and valued member of the University of La Verne community.

And now it's my great honor to recognize a team of young women that has inspired us all this year through their determination, their leadership and their extraordinary achievement."

At each table, there was a card of each member of the Volleyball team with their major and year, and little blurb about them.



Mia Byington

Angelina Alverez, senior psychology major, and Mario Aguayo, senior music major, perform with the ULV Cover Band Saturday at the Sheraton Fairplex Suites and Conference Center during the annual Scholarship Gala. The women's volleyball team was honored alongside senior psychology major Adonis Borer, who gave a blessing; ASULV leaders handed out prizes to donors.

Then dinner was served after a blessing, which was given by Adonis Borer, president of the Common Ground interfaith club, and senior psychology major.

During the dessert portion of the evening, the pledges started.

Donors could scan a QR code to donate from their phones, and then guests would wave their paddle saying they are willing to pledge or have donated said amount. The pledge started with $10,000, with four guests willing to pledge that amount.

"This has the potential to bring the community together," board of trustees member Andrew Wong said.

"Anything we can do to support our students to thrive and also celebrate the achievements of our volleyball team."

University administrators were not certain of the total amount raised by press time Thursday.

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Commentary

Protest challenges University policy

Asha Longsworth
Staff Writer

Lordsburg Liberation, a grassroots organization on campus aiming to unify the University through anti-imperialist activism, organized a walkout on April 23.

About 30 students, myself included, participated in the protest, in response to the University's lack of transparency and lack of support for students and faculty.

We objected specifically to the University's policy on speech and assembly, the policy that governs protests such as ours, established last year and amended in February, which states that students must obtain pre-authorization for such protest events.

A 2024 analysis by Inside Higher Ed found that 97% of student-led protests are peaceful.

Our April 23 walkout was indeed an organized, peaceful demonstration. Students participating felt it was important to do something to hold the University administration accountable.

Some participated because they've seen ICE agents near campus.

They were unhappy with the University's lack of clear guidance should ICE come onto our campus. The University of La Verne is a federally recognized Hispanic Serving Institution with more than 50% of our population identifying as Hispanic or Latino.

ICE has come into cities, including Los Angeles and our neighbor, Pomona, and targeted black and brown people, including U.S. citizens.

Students here are legitimately afraid of being targeted.

Students at the protest said that while we are a majority Hispanic student population, we are not a Hispanic "serving" institution.

We chanted: "No justice. No peace. Keep ICE off our streets."

We also protested the University's poor faculty compensation.

"We're going to fight for everyone on this campus. It's not just students fighting for students," one protester said.

The problems we brought to light Friday are not unique to our campus.

According to an April 15 Los Angeles Times story, more than 40,000 University of California staff, faculty and students are planning a systemwide strike this month if their demands for higher wages, lower health care costs and more are not met.

Faculty, staff and students everywhere are suffering, and needed change in times of crisis does not happen without disruption.

During our April 23 protest, participants chanted to the tune of the 2000s jam "Ride Wit Me," by Nelly:

"If you want to take a class at ULV, then you gotta pay a really big band fee. Oh, why do I live this way? Aye show me the money"

Another chant, a call and response, broke out:

"Risa Dickson tell us where's our money."

"I don't know."

This chant was in reference to Dickson's "Conversation with the President" event for students on March 24, during which students were not satisfied with the president's answers to their questions about the University budget.

In fairness, the University this year lost its longtime chief financial officer, and Dickson did say she would be working toward improving budget clarity and transparency.

Protesters held signs reading "Transparency Now," "Defend Our Education, Not Your Money" and "I Wanna Be in the Room Where it Happens," among others.

"We hope admin realizes they can't neglect us," one protester said.

Asha Longsworth is a junior communications major and a staff writer for the Campus Times. She can be reached at ***asha.longsworth@laverne.edu.***

Alternative fashion breaks the norm

story and photography by Marina Bravo

Fashion is a statement, it tells stories and breaks molds. Appearances are just one of the many ways that alternative people can express themselves and break these stereotypes. To be their authentic selves is often envisioned through the color of their hair, a new piercing or a statement piece.

Alternative fashion is often misconstrued as a singular look but it is actually so much more than just an ensemble of black clothes. In the 2020s, Social media influencers have brought alternative style and experiences to the mainstream, making it seem as though alternative fashion is now a lost art.

However, many individuals continue to be their authentic selves and don't allow the trends to dictate their unique style.

Drew Aguila, Lee Diaz and Oscar Chilapa all find ways to express themselves through their fashion.

"For my style inspo I am really big on like the '70s," Aguila said.

"I didn't find my style until recently when a friend of mine recommended that I hit up this one thrift antique vintage store in downtown Claremont called Deeluxe. That's where I really started to figure out and find out a lot of the clothes that I liked."

Aguila explained how his previous experiences at thrift stores were unlike those at Deeluxe. He shared how he wasn't the best at thrifting and he'd usually only leave with one piece for his closet, but with his newfound spot, he was able to find so much more.

Diaz shared that he doesn't have a particular style inspo but they definitely break gender-norms in the way that they dress.

"I'm non-binary and clothes are just my representation of that," Diaz said. "Any time I go out I want to challenge that idea of what makes a man or a woman. I don't want to have to pick a side so if I like the color or the cut I'll wear just about anything."

Whether it be masculine-leaning or feminine, it doesn't really matter, as he wears the clothes and the clothes don't wear him.

Fashion can also come from the influence of the people that one surrounds themselves with. Alternative culture is community. It is deeply rooted in sticking together and showing up for each other– naturally, this would show up in fashion.

"My style inspo would have to be my friends Josh, Jupiter and Jerry," Chilapa said. "They dress with style practically everyday, and it would inspire me to work on my style based on the clothes they would wear."

Chilapa described his look to be influenced by the music he listens to and loves. He mirrors his music heroes through the band t-shirts he wears.

"My style would consist of wearing band t-shirts and sweaters, baggy jeans and my old Converse," Chilapa said. "This represents me because I love listening to music and I would style my outfits based on the band t-shirts I would wear."

Jewelry is another key element in alternative style, especially with piercings. Not only is it the rings and chains, but also the piercings.

Alternative fashion highlights and celebrates all kinds of piercings and styles.

Facial piercings can often be the gateway to "looking" more alternative. Many individuals discover themselves through this and it is the start of their own personal version of alternative dress.

"My ear piercings and nose ring are my statement pieces because I admire the way they look on me," Chilapa said. "Getting them done in the first place is what helped me develop my sense of style."

Hair is also a big part of alternative dress. Whether it is seen through big hair like the Goths in the '80s or the multi-colored Scene Queen Hair in the 2010s, hair is definitely a staple in alternative dress.

"I love going out of the way to get my hair done and ready," Aguila said. "Whatever things I put in my hair, I'm not really picturing, impressing anyone. I like impressing myself almost."

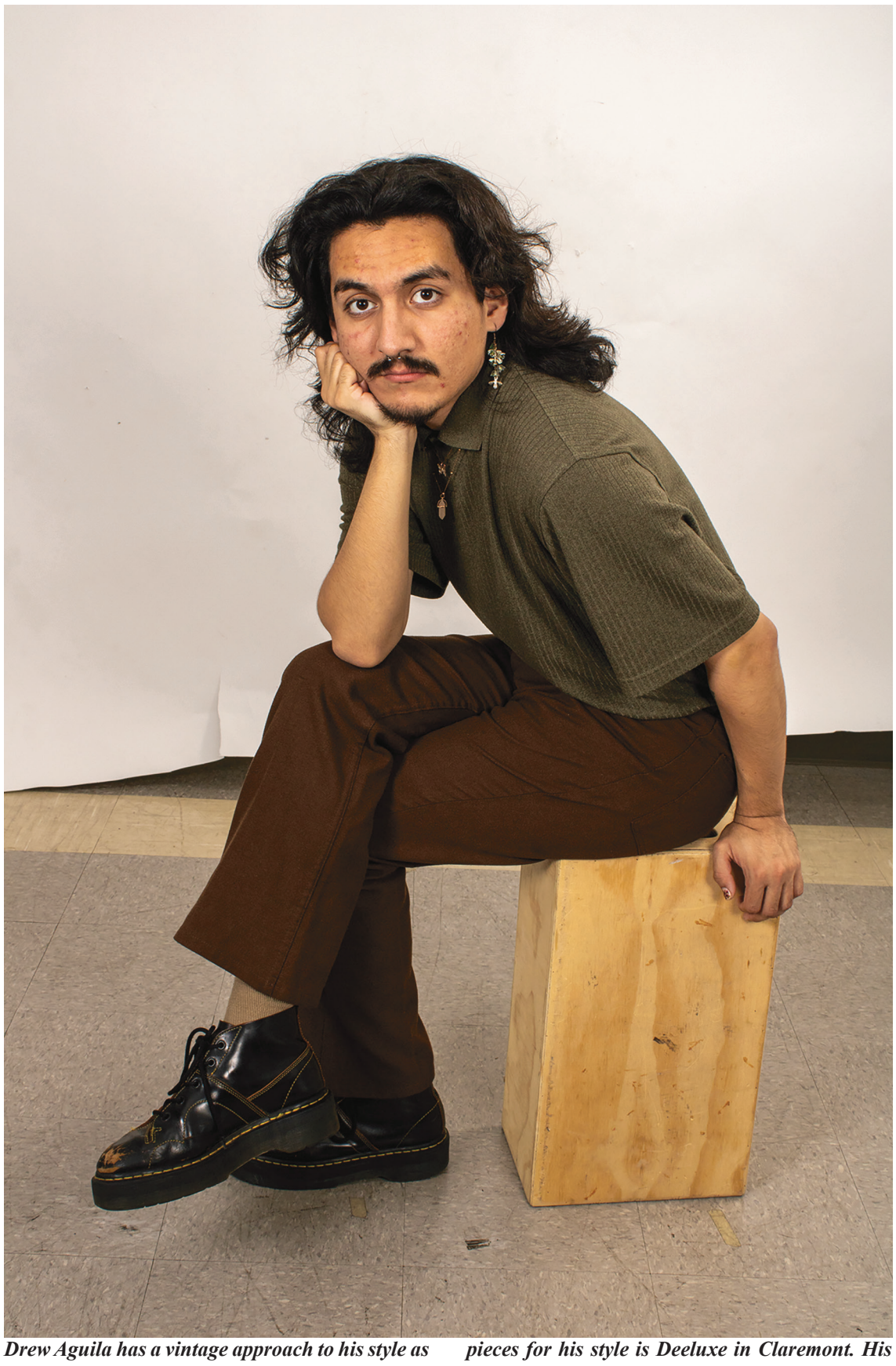
Alternative fashion does not go for the norm. It is outside of the box and celebrates uniqueness. Although it is "mainstream," it still comes with its own comments and questions. Many still don't even get it, but it all adds to the persona.

"I would be viewed as a troublemaker or unprofessional because of the way I dress," Chilapa said. "My old dining service job at my college forbade people from having any facial piercings when working with customers face to face. My coworkers and I were forced to wear masks to hide our facial piercings."

Alternative fashion is definitely a rowdy sibling that, in a way, rebels against the rules of the house, but just like any style, it helps individuals bloom into who they are.

"I chose to express myself this way because I really love my style," Chilapa said. "Wearing it makes me feel comfortable with my appearance and boosts my confidence when talking to people."

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Drew Aguila has a vintage approach to his style as he channels the 1970s. His spot to find the perfect pieces for his style is Deeluxe in Claremont. His shoes are his statement piece.



Lee Diaz, Oscar Chilapa and Drew Aguila are all childhood friends from Pomona and each have their own unique ways on how to express themselves. They have found that through their fashion they are able to build their confidence and find who they are. They use their artistic visions to pick every piece.

Maker Fair celebrates ULV artisans

Anisa Salazar
Senior Editor

The 11th annual Mini Maker Fair, sponsored by Wilson Library and Makerspace, was held Wednesday at Citrus Lawn.

This event invited students, faculty, staff and anyone connected to the University's community to showcase their talents by displaying or selling their creations.

Small businesses are given a chance to promote their creative, innovative products.

Those who registered to participate displayed tech, handmade jewelry, crocheted goods, arts and more.

Alum of the University and owner of Vivre La Vie Bourgeoisie, Jacqualynn McClendon, is a returning participant in the Mini Maker Fair.

She sells bag charms, cuticle oils, essential oils, candles, notebooks and more.

"This is my version of giving back, improving the Earth and adding things that are beautiful to it," McClendon said.

McClendon is environmentally friendly and uses recycled materials in all of her products.

Her bag charms are repurposed fabrics from the thrift store. Her longest-selling product, cuticle oil, is made with vegan products and uses recycled oil containers.

McClendon's candles are her pride and joy. She spent about two years perfecting the product with natural ingredients. What encouraged her to begin making candles was when she fell extremely sick due to paraffin, which is a common ingredient used in candles to make them burn longer.

Traffic flowed through the lawn, allowing students to stumble upon the booths and join in on the celebration of ingenuity.

A few vendors at the fair discovered their love for creating while stuck in the house due to COVID-19 in 2020.

Junior biology major and owner of CraftyA, Ashlee Viveros, sells handmade jewelry, phone case charms and crocheted pocket monsters.

"It means a lot to me when people come by, pick up a piece, and it means something to them because I put so much work into it," Viveros said. "Something that I really enjoy is making gifts for people, so when somebody picks us up and says that their mom, sister, or whoever would love it, it makes me happy."

Viveros began making friendship bracelets during quarantine and has since grown to making more items. She went from threads to beads, to now crocheting.

Another business that stemmed from the lockdown was Irenic Crochet Co. Owner, Brooklyn Joplin, discovered her talent for crocheting and has been selling her creations ever since.



Vicente Rodriguez

Students visit the different vendors at the Mini Maker Fair at Citrus Lawn on Wednesday. The fair featured 12 vendors who sold all sorts of handmade items, including jewelry and crocheted goods, with the latter being the most popular item offered to customers.

This was Joplin's third year at the Mini Maker Fair, and continues to transform her business through the years.

"I like seeing the growth of not only myself but the maker fair as well," Joplin said. "I love sharing my work with people."

Some of her best-selling pieces are the crocheted cows and chickens.

Other vendors at the event were Ontario City Library Lightspeed, which displayed 3-D prints and laser cutting, as well as Arlo's Whimsi Cottage, which sold plushies, stickers and cozy crochet pieces.

After having a daughter, owner of Her Alfa, Cristina Alfaro, found her passion for sewing and creating accessories.

Now in her second year as a vendor at the event, Alfaro has become more comfortable in her craft, and attending this event once more means a lot to her.

"Last year, my sister had to accompany me here because I was shy and scared to do it," Alfaro said. "She's the one who pushed me, especially because she works here. Her being my biggest supporter and coming to this school is very special."

Alfaro comes from a family of makers and creators, so she finds a lot of inspiration in her uncle's craft.

She has always seen his handmade leather-sewn items like belts and sandals, and thought what he did was so cool.

To find more connections in the creator space, visit the Wilson Library's Makerspace.

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Spirit of La Verne honors exemplary Leopards

Donya Rouzbehi
Sports Editor

The Ludwick Center for Spirituality, Cultural Understanding and Community Engagement hosted the 12th annual Spirit of La Verne Recognition Ceremony on Tuesday in the Sacred Space.

Students, faculty and administrators were honored for their efforts and their embodiment of the University's values.

Students honored this year included Justin Castañeda, sophomore criminology major; Jasmine Gutierrez, senior psychology major; Hiba Hansali, senior political science major; Brianna Morris, junior chemistry major; and Sophia Santana, senior biology major.

Administrators, faculty and staff honored were Shannon Mathews, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Debbie Deacy, executive director of purchasing and procurement services; Alan Tollefson, theatre technical director; and Dane Sawyer, instructor of philosophy and religion.

Special Honors this year went to Carlos Cervantes, associate dean for academic and career success; and Scott Forsyth in facilities management.

Provost Ken O'Donnell introduced the 2026 Newman Civic Fellows Award, which is given to a student each year for their outstanding civic and community engagement.

This award is named in honor of Frank Newman, co-founder of campus compact, a national coalition of more than 1,100 college and university presidents who were committed to fulfilling civic purposes in higher education.

This award went to Castañeda, who was nominated by President Risa Dickson.

Castañeda, a sophomore criminology major, was honored for his involvement and leadership via his role as a student admission ambassador, his participation with the Lordsburg Speech and Debate team, with Model United Nations and more.

"I'm feeling very honored and appreciated," Castañeda said. "I love giving back to the community that gave to me."

Julissa Espinoza, director for the office of civic and community engagement, introduced the La Verne's Civic and Community Engagement award, which went to Sawyer for his contributions.

Among them, Sawyer dedicated 140 hours to community engagement projects over the years including participating annually in the Flex and new student community engagement day.

He has also led a group of students to do community service with the Assistance League of Pomona Valley, a local non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and families in Pomona.



Joseph Nocero

Shannon Mathews, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences is introduced by Marquisha Frost, associate vice president of inclusive excellence and mission integration, and Stacey Strickland Jr., adjunct professor of dance, at the Spirit of La Verne Awards on Tuesday in the Sacred Space.

"There are many things that faculty can be recognized for, like scholarship and teaching," Sawyer said. "But to be recognized in terms of the Spirit of La Verne and embodying the values of the institution, particularly, feels very special to me. As a graduate from here, I felt so impacted by the wonderful faculty that I had here and I wouldn't be the person I am today without them."

Stacey Strickland, adjunct instructor of dance and Black Student Union advisor, then announced the 2026 Inclusive Excellence and Mission Integration award, which went to Morris, junior chemistry major.

Morris earned this award through her ambition to earn two doctorates, including a doctor of pharmacy degree. Her academic focus is rooted in her commitment to transform high stakes and uncertainty into expertise and accessibility.

"I did not expect to get the award," Morris said. "I think many of the things that I do are things that I do for my heart. It's mostly my faculty who really drive me to create the spaces and lead, even when I'm in a hardship."

Mathews was recognized for her leadership of the College of

Continued on page 7

Arts, *etc...*

Happenings

'United in Song' Concert

The University of La Verne's chorale and chamber singers will perform "United in Song" at 7 p.m. Saturday in Morgan Auditorium.

The concert will feature modern choral and madrigal music.

Tickets are free for students and $10 for other guests.

For more information, contact Clarissa Shan at **cshan@laverne.edu.**

Prism Review Release Party

The University's creative writing program will host a Prism Review Magazine release party at 4 p.m. Tuesday in the Campus Center Ballroom.

Students will read stories from the Prism Review's new issue.

For more information, contact **prismreview@laverne.edu.**

Unity Through Rhythm

The University of La Verne music department will present Unity Through Rhythm, as the final Sundays at Morgan concert, at 3 p.m. May 18 in Morgan Auditorium.

It will feature music from Igaba, Ron Powell, Nat Scott, Cory Hogan and Homero Chavez.

Suggested donation is $20. For more information email **music@laverne.edu.**

Route 66 Centennial

Cultural Awareness and Social Inclusion, a non-profit organization based in La Verne, and ULV's Race and Ethnicity course are collaborating for an art exhibition about Route 66.

The exhibition will be open from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. May 26 at the welcome room of the Hillcrest retirement community at 2705 Mountain View Dr. in La Verne.

For more information, email **casi.laverne@gmail.com.**

—Cassidy Diaz

Senior photos reflect Diverse views

by Cassidy Diaz

photography by Aaliyah Alamillo



Senior photography major Jesse Juarez talks to the audience about his work in the "Nine Reflections" senior exhibition after being introduced by Visiting Professor of Photography Fred Brashear Jr. and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Shannon Mathews at the Irene Carlson Gallery on April 30. Juarez' work featured a series of images and a short film that was shown. He was one of nine seniors showcasing their work.

The "Nine Reflections: 2026 Senior Thesis Exhibition" is now on display in the Irene Carlson Gallery of Photography. The exhibit showcases photos from the senior projects of nine photography majors.

The show kicked off with a gallery reception on April 30, filled with family, friends and peers of the artists.

Senior photo majors in the show include Ronald Banks, Liberty Belle, Mia Byington, Emily Casillas, Antonio Ceniceros, Rylee Fournier, Jesse Juarez, Joseph Nocero and Vicente Rodriguez, and showcases their diverse approaches and perspectives.

At the reception the artists each gave a short speech explaining their personal messages and themes of their respective projects. Those themes included social justice, self-reflection, mental health and challenging the male gaze, as well as the natural world.

Byington's works showcased three photos of drag queens and one of an interactive display of a table with cosmetics.

"I grew up in a really conservative area," Byington said. "And I'm a lesbian, so it wasn't really fun in my social world in school … I really tried to look in the media for the queer representation in my life."

This was her gateway to gay culture, especially after coming to California for college, she said.

"It was really fun being able to shoot them because it was kind of like my way of giving back to drag," Byington said.

Norcero shared his passion for the world of nature via his photos. One of his photos showcased a close-up of tree branches and a second featured a more distant view of tree roots intertwining.

"I want to show how nature can be seen from a different perspective than what you would normally see when you're outside," Norcero said. "Also (to) remind them that nature is important to us and to our society."

Casillas displayed photographs of female student athletes in her project titled, "Strength and Stillness."

She chose to show the photos in black and white – as color would have been a distraction, she said – due to its symmetry display of four photos in one frame.

Casillas said that she wanted to do something different for her project. Instead of being outside with most of her projects as a sports photographer, she chose to shoot in a studio.

"I just wanted to show how strength exists beyond movement," Casillas said. "I wanted to emphasize their presence, identity and their quiet confidence outside of the play in their game."

Casillas hopes to become a sports team photographer for the WNBA in the future.

For Fred Brashear, visiting professor of photography and the students' instructor, listening is a key element towards guiding the students in their creative journey in understanding their message and how they wish to capture it through photography.

"In many ways they're capturing notes or stories and have grown as people, as community members, as artists," Brashear said. "They've become more eloquent in their voice, more confident, and it's really nice to see."

Brashear also shared some words of wisdom for his students as they enter the world of photography.

"Stay true to yourselves, stay consistent and continue to make the work," Brashear said. "I hope that they see how hard they work and this is not about me, this is a celebration for them."

The gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday through Friday. The exhibit will run until Aug. 1.

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La Verne Symphony interprets opera

Natalia Rodriguez
Staff Writer

The La Verne Symphony Orchestra performed "Operation Opera," a musical performance highlighting pieces from popular operas, Saturday in the Morgan Auditorium before an audience of about 50.

Because this is a community orchestra, the members range from as young as college students to those already in their eighties.

"I think that inter-generational activities are just. . . vital to everybody's mental health, even if it's not in an orchestra," Sylvia Lee Mann, an adjunct professor of music and director of the orchestra, said.

Under the direction of conductor Mann, the group played pieces such as the overture from "The Abduction" from "The Seraglio" by Mozart, "Dance of the Hours" from "La Gioconda" by Amilcare Ponchielli, and many more.

The final few pieces performed were a selection of movements from the famous opera Carmen by Georges Bizet.

They were selected for the atmosphere brought by their instrumentation.

"Part of it was the availability of versions of the music that fit our instrumentation, because some operas… have even larger groups," Mann said.

"I tried to pick very familiar opera things, so that it would be accessible for people."

Additionally, Mann invited Sherry Kaplan, a mezzo-soprano singer, to be a guest vocalist for the performance.

Kaplan sang for "Habanera" from "Carmen" and "O Mio Babbino Caro" from "Gianni Schicchi" by Giacomo Puccini.

Dawna Snow, an attendee and member of the Symphony Orchestra Board, had previously performed with the orchestra on cello, which she has been learning for about 16 years.

She mentioned appreciating the different perspectives from the other members of the orchestra.

"I didn't have to be a professional to be in it, so it was accessible to amateur musicians," Snow said.

"I don't think most people out of the shoot are gonna say, 'Hm, I've never been to the symphony before, I'll buy tickets to the L.A. Phil,'" Ellie Choate, the orchestra's harpist, said.

"Most people are never gonna approach it that way because it's expensive and it's an unknown quantity."

"But when they're coming to hear a community orchestra with their friends playing, and they get introduced to music… that's great," Choate said.

Nataly Flores, a freshman mechanical engineering major attending Citrus College, mentioned hearing about the orchestra from a colleague, who encouraged her to check it out after hearing she wanted to continue playing the violin after graduating high school.

Having started as one of the first violinists in the group, she was happy to see everything come together for the performance.

"I found it cathartic, the final performance," Flores said.

"It was good to finally see some… stress or anxiety I had about the concert dissipate once it had finally been completed."

Preparations for the event started back in February, at the start of the spring semester.

"I think it's an experience that I would recommend to people who want to pick up their instrument again if they haven't picked it up in a really long time," Flores said. "It's a welcoming environment."

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Art walk showcases variety

Saturday's monthly art walk in Claremont featured an eclectic mix including hand-crafted jewelry, acrylic paintings, potted vases and woven art across the various galleries and sites across the Claremont Village.

Artists Ruthellyn Whittington, Tymeri Cuervo and Sonia Sleeger were among the artists featured showing their work.

Whittington, a textile artist, said her work is inspired by her unconscious.

"My relationship with myself and my unconscious is where my inspiration derives from," Whittington said. "Seeing the joy that my art brings to people and having them discover all the little things I put into my works is truly inspiring."

Acrylic painter Sleeger said she is inspired by other artists.

"I'm always reading about the local artists or going to museums just to be amazed," Sleeger said.

Cuervo, a ceramic artist, said some of her work is inspired by her late mother.

"Her deeply rooted love for art alongside other artists such as potters, woodworkers or just anyone who truly loves what they do," Cuervo said. "When I create art I depend on it."

Rocio Lewis, who attended, said she appreciated the depth of the works displayed.

"Many times art can be mistaken for just colors instead of feelings, and once you recognize it you can feel intertwined with the piece itself," she said.

Claremont's next art walk will be June 6.

—Aniyha Willliams

Commentary

Met Gala fails to answer whether fashion is art



OLIVIA RUSSO

The annual Met Gala, an annual event hosted by Vogue and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, reared its head this week.

The event Monday coincides with the Costume Institute's newest presentation, curated by Andrew Bolton.

This year, the exhibition is titled "Costume Art," which pairs artworks already in the museum with corresponding garments. It chooses to cover the way that fashion is seen both on the body and in artwork. Costume Art serves only as the theme surrounding the exhibition, the dress code is what guests at the Met Gala are supposed to follow.

For 2026, they landed on "Fashion is Art," which attempts to answer a question that has been long debated in art spaces.

Certain designers do not believe they make art because fashion is something that people can wear, not something that is displayed in a museum.

The fashion industry as a whole seems to focus on the money making rather than the art making.

However, designers and guests were tasked with the dilemma of showcasing how fashion can be intertwined with artwork.

Overall, the designs at this event were more lackluster than what was shown last year, proving yet again that a broad theme makes for some weak interpretations.

When a dress code can be thought of in so many different ways, it dilutes the actual attempts from those doing their research.

Considering I personally define art within fashion as the garment itself and wearable beauty, everyone followed the theme this year, by wearing something.

Noticeably, this year, most of the people attending fell within two categories: followed the theme of the exhibition or followed the dress code.

My best dressed of the night goes specifically to Emma Chamberlain in Mugler, Madonna in Saint Laurent, Beyonce in Olivier Rousteing, Paloma Elsesser in Francesco Risso and Chase Infiniti in Thom Browne.

While each has different looks, I think their inspiration of artwork as a jumping off point was extremely interesting and produced a lot of art-worthy fashion moments.

Chamberlain, Infiniti and Madonna all pulled directly from artwork and the aspects of painting, Chamberlain especially whose look was actually hand painted by an artist.

Beyonce, while inspired by a Louisiana artist, also referenced the exhibition with her beaded skeleton down, interpreting the body in its most inner state.

Bad Bunny in Zara took the idea of the aging body into consideration with his ensemble.

He showed up in prosthetic makeup making him appear 50 years older than he is.

In an age where plastic surgery seems to reign supreme, it's nice to take the time to appreciate the beauty that comes with age.

Robert Wun, along with his whole team, deserved a medal for the amount of custom looks they created, notably on LISA of BLACKPINK and Naomi Osaka. I personally preferred Osaka's look more as it connected both the exhibit and the dress code as her jacket came off to reveal a gown that was designed like the muscle underneath the skin.

However, not everything in the night was perfect. Saint Laurent as a whole gave weak designs and even weaker interpretations. In terms of how founder Yves Saint Laurent enjoyed art when he was designing, it feels disappointing that a brand with that much history misses the mark that poorly.

Dior, designed by Jonathan Anderson and Schiaparelli, designed by Daniel Roseberry, are two brands that I was excited for but I felt as though they did not give their best work to their clients. Sabrina Carpenter went in a gown that was entirely made with a roll of film for the movie "Sabrina," but I think the design itself left much to be desired.

Roseberry only dressed two clients: Kylie Jenner and Lauren Sanchez-Bezos (who being there is an entirely different article), but both looks were not as good as I was expecting. Bezos ended up looking boring and her interpretation was barely understood, and while Jenner's was actually better than some of her previous looks, it was weak compared to everyone else.

Some of the details are what made the looks more exciting. Anok Yai's makeup and hair was reminiscent of a statue that has been rusted with age and Sabrina Getty's bodice was her own body plastered on the dress she wore. I think these are really solid views on the theme, but it becomes lackluster when the whole look is considered.

The Met Gala is hard to nail each time for everyone, but I think all this year proved is that the narrower the theme, the better for the results.

Olivia Russo, a senior journalism major, is editor-in-chief of the Campus Times. She can be reached by email at ***olivia.russo@laverne.edu***.

Spirit...

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Arts and Sciences. Mathews has also conducted workshops on gender and cultural components of leadership that are often overlooked. And she was honored for leading the college with integrity and compassion.

"When you are committed to making the world around you better," Mathews said. "It does actually get seen. I want to say thank you to the community in the room, from students to faculty to staff to administrators. It is because we work together, that we can as a community recognize individuals at moments like this."

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Leopards sweep into postseason

Lila Gongora
Staff Writer

The Leopards dominated during their Senior Day doubleheader against Redlands at Ben Hines Field on Saturday, bouncing back from a series-opening loss to the Bulldogs on May 1. Game one's final score was 9-2, and game two's score was 6-2.

After losing 7-6 at the Yard Baseball Field on May 1, the Leopards went into the doubleheader determined to secure their spot in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference postseason tournament.

The sweep made Senior Day extra special for graduating players.

"This place has honestly shown me how to just be a better man," senior second baseman Aidan Salcedo said. "I learned a lot coming in as a freshman and turning into the man that I am today, and I owe that all to being in this program."

After the previous day's loss, La Verne was focused on falling back on their training and lessons learned throughout the season. The Bulldogs scored first in game one, putting up two runs against the Leopards, showing their strength at the plate yet again.

"We needed to work on our execution, especially when hitting," senior first baseman Aaron Whobrey said. "Our pitching has been doing well, so we just needed to get it done for them on the offensive side."

After a single up the middle from Salcedo in the third, senior shortstop Ryan Vosika scored a run. Senior catcher Nathan Perry and sophomore designated hitter Isaac Barrales both had RBIs, ending the third 3-2 in favor of the Leopards.



Aaliyah Alamillo

Redlands sophomore second baseman Tyler Barsness misses the throw to catch La Verne sophomore third baseman RJ Libby out at second base at Ben Hines Field on Saturday. The Leopards won both games of the doubleheader and extended their season to make it to the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference postseason tournament.

In the fourth inning, La Verne put up four more runs with Salcedo and Perry scoring. Junior center fielder Christian Takahashi and sophomore third baseman RJ Libby also came around to score.

Sophomore left-handed pitcher Lucas Quintana relieved sophomore right-handed pitcher Corbin Duffield in the sixth inning, throwing shutout ball the rest of the way.

"Today, I really wanted to come in and mix my two pitches, my splitter and my fastball," Quintana said. "My goal was to get in there, throw strikes and let the defense do the work, so I felt really confident in everybody."

Quintana also expressed appreciation for his seven senior teammates, who he said have shown leadership and have done their part in contributing to a winning record this season.

In the sixth, freshman outfielder Lucas Zayac scored on a wild pitch, giving the Leopards an 8-2 lead.

During the seventh inning, Salcedo doubled to right field, bringing in Libby for the last run. He ended the game with two RBIs and two runs.



Baljot Rathor

Junior outfielder Christian Takahashi celebrates in the second inning of the second game against Redlands on Saturday at Ben Hines Field. Takahashi was 3-for-4 in the game

The final score was 9-2 for the Leopards, securing them the fifth seed spot in the SCIAC postseason tournament.

Their additional 6-2 win in game two was the cherry on top of a celebratory day for the graduating baseball players.

"We're just trying to soak up today and have as much fun as possible," said senior catcher Daniel Moreno. "It's been four years playing here, so it means a lot to me."

La Verne finished the regular season 22-17-1 overall and 14-10 in conference play.

The Leopards opened the SCIAC tournament with a 2-1 win over Chapman at W.O. Hart Park in Orange.

They moved to face the No. 1 Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Stags in the second round Thursday at Azusa Pacific.

Results were not available at press time.

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Softball secures SCIAC bid

Raquel Campos
Staff Writer

Despite being swept by Claremont-Mudd-Scripps on Saturday at Campus West, the softball team still secured the third seed in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference postseason tournament for the first time since 2022.

After losing game one, 5-0, the second game against the Athenas was intense.

The Leopards started in the lead with senior right fielder Annica Luna scoring the first run off an error from CMS junior right fielder Delanie Stevens.

"It was a really exciting moment and a turning point of energy for us," Luna said. "Just seeing everyone cheering and getting so hype for me was really exciting because my team is my family and having that support from them is always so great."

Junior shortstop Mikayla Galaviz singled to right field, bringing freshman pinch runner Sofia Carillo home and securing the 2-0 lead.

"I was excited to contribute to my team in some way," Carrillo said. "As soon as I stepped into the dugout, I felt everything wash away, and I knew this was something I could do. I'm looking forward to seeing how much closer the rest of this tournament is going to bring the team because we're already so close and connected with each other."

The score held steady until the fifth inning when the Athenas broke through, scoring seven runs against senior pitcher Jaidynn Alvarez, putting them ahead for the first time, 7-2.

"Throughout the season, we practice having a positive mindset through everything," freshman catcher Allison Gutierrez said. "We really emphasize moving forward in moments like that, and that small reminder helps us not bring ourselves down. Our team is very energetic and we come with all the energy and our chemistry helps us build off of each other all the time."

The Athenas scored another run in the seventh inning, resulting in the final score of 8-2.

"One thing I love about my team is that even though something might go wrong, we all always have each other's backs and lift each other up," Galavis said. "That's what gets us through games. It's a team loss and our attitude is always positive."

La Verne will open the SCIAC postseason tournament against Chapman at 1 p.m. Friday at Redlands.

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